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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Letter dated 16 December 1996 from the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the President of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1996/17, requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to act as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998.

In my note on the organization of work for the fortieth session of the Commission, it is indicated that the duration of that session should be maintained at eight days divided into two parts: six days for the regular session, and two days for the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session.

The understanding that the Commission would act as preparatory body for the special session within the eight days of the regular session was implied in paragraph 172 of the Commission's report by the wording: "planning for the next session should allow the Commission also to act, within existing resources, as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly" (emphasis added). No formal decision, however, was forwarded by the Commission to the Council regarding the distribution of its work to act both as Commission and as preparatory body for the special session.

At its second ad hoc open-ended intersessional meeting, held on 11 December 1996, the Commission, inter alia, confirmed that this was its intention and decided that, as Chairman of the Commission, I should write to you in order to clarify any possible misunderstanding and to ensure that there will be no budgetary implications. I have also requested the Secretary of the

* E/1997/2.

Commission to prepare a draft decision to be presented to the Council at its organizational session in 1997 concerning the distribution of work of the fortieth session of the Commission. The text of the draft decision is annexed to the present letter.

(Signed) Helmut BURKE
Chairman of the Commission
on Narcotic Drugs at its
thirty-ninth session

Annex

DRAFT DECISION

At its _____ meeting, on _____ 1997, the Economic and Social Council, having considered resolution 1996/17 of 23 July 1996 in which it requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to act as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, to be held in 1998, decided that the Commission, at its fortieth session, should devote two days of its eight-day session to act as preparatory body for the special session of the Assembly.